

Horticulture Northwest

Journal of the Northwest Ornamental Horticultural Society



Osmaronia cerasiforma

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Sallie D. Allen, Editor

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OSMARONIA CERASIFORMIS

Marvin Black, Seattle, Washington

The first pale new green leaves of spring are always *Osmaronia cerasiformis* in Puget Sound woodlands; there is no challenger for "first". These delightful lanceolate to elliptic leaves look like leaves are supposed to, smell like watermelon rind when you crush them, and taste like cucumbers, finally turning bitter if you keep chewing. Probably you didn't know that. Fact is, this shrub has needed a press agent for a long time; its only supporters a few hardy souls who tramp the early spring woods. They have perhaps caught the scent of its racemes of quiet greeny-white blossoms, some years as early as January. These emerge with the leaves, a month ahead of more proper woodlanders, who sleep in too long at winter's end. They hang down awkwardly, tilted at a slight angle as if self-conscious to be out alone. People differ on their evaluation of the scent (Leslie Haskin says "rank smell", Louise Beebe Wilder, "delicious bitter fragrance", Piper and Beattie, "a peculiar, rather unpleasant odor", W. J. Bean calls it "almond-scented", and the Royal Horticultural Society's Dictionary of Gardening says "its chief value lies in the sweet fragrance of the flowers"). In the generic name, *Osme* is Greek for smell or fragrance.

Anyway, you can quickly spot *Osmaronia* decorating the woods with its luminous pale green leafage, and I'll probably always grow it sentimentally for that reason. Roy Davidson says the English seem to appreciate it more than we do. Writers have praised it but faintly; Hitchcock; "it can scarcely be considered a choice ornamental". Johnson's Gardener's Dictionary; "liable to get injured by late frosts, because it commences growth too early" (indeed! it seems immune to frosts here), Bean; "usually six to eight feet high, with the habit of a black currant". It forms a loosely rounded, upright oval bush with upswept habit like *Clethra* rather than the pagoda-like layered style of many of our favored ericaceous shrubs, but this upsweep has a vigor about it that associates well with the other habit. Culturally, it could work in that association, liking a moist, woodsy soil, though it will take heavy, bottom land soils better than many *Ericaceae*. *Osmaronia* is in the *Rosaceae*, allied to plums, hawthorns and chokecherries.

I like the common name oso-berry, a Spanish derivation meaning "bear-berry"; somehow the alternate "Indian-plum" or "Indian-peach" sounds too Caucasian. The Indians did use the plant, though the berry was eaten as a starvation food, reported in Food Plants of the North American Indians, (Elias Yanovsky, USDA, 1936), and Erna Gunther's Ethnobotany of Western Washington in which she said the Cowlitz Indians dried them for winter, most other Washington tribes ate them fresh. The Squaxon "eat the berries, but do not consider them very good", and the Chehalis informant said that too many berries turned one's mouth black and gave a stomach ache. The fruits ripen in June, start out orange and end up blue-black like small plums, with each drupe encasing a single seed. The plant is dioecious; the flowers of the male plants are somewhat larger and showier, but only the females bear fruit.

Once the plant was known as *Nuttallia cerasiformis*, which it was named after its 1838 discovery by Thomas Nuttall "on the Columbia". He also had

another genus originally named for him, from the mallow family, which then was changed to *Callirhoe*. Poor Nuttall, now he has no genus at all! The juggling around has confused authors to this day. Graham Thomas's 1967 revision of his Color in the Winter Garden still has the old name *Nuttallia*, almost 90 years after Greene changed it. In the 1860 edition of George Johnson's Cottage Gardener's Dictionary, the *Rosaceae* family species *Nuttallia cerasiformis*, "Greenish-white. February. California" happily appears in the same genus with *N. malvaeflora*, "Purple. August. Texas" and *N. papaveracea*, "Red, purple. August. Louisiana". Quite a botanical contortion! Finally, Bean (1976) says the name *Osmaronia* itself is invalid, since quite recently an earlier name, *Oemleria*, was found to have priority. However, *Osmaronia* has been proposed for conservation for the genus, to avoid further confusion.

For an exciting, very early garden show, Graham Thomas suggests using this shrub's pale green foliage as backup to February blooming *Daphne mezereum* or its white form. Makes me sorry I banished the *Daphne* last year.

A Garden Pest: The Mole

Kathy Carey, Seattle, Washington

The mole is a member of the small insectivorous mammals, insect eaters, and of the most numerous mammals in the world, inhabiting every continent except Australia. Four of the more common moles of this area listed below have similar characteristics though prefer different environments.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Environment</u>
Coastal Mole	Western and Central Northwest	Bushy and deciduous woody regions and drier upland meadows
North American or Eastern Mole	East of the Rockies	Sandy Loam
Townsend Mole	Pacific Coastal Region	Moist grassy pastures
Shrew Mole	N.W. North America West of Cascade Crest	Moist sandy forest where sun rarely strikes the surface

Physically adapted to underground life, the mole has a tubby, round body, short legs, a flat tail and a pointed snout with teeth that have sharp cutting edges used for chopping insects. The fur is velvety and presents no resistance whichever way it is rubbed. Most moles lack external ears though their hearing is excellent. The front limbs are broad with strong blunt claws and toes making a shovel for digging or a paddle for swimming if need arises. The hairs on the feet and snout help the mole feel its way through the tunnel as their small eyes and lack of good sight make the mole dependent on their other senses.

Both senses of touch and smell are keen. Sensitivity to vibration en-

ables the mole to feel the noise made by a burrowing earthworm. The mole then digs, in a swimming motion, rapidly to its food source. The tail is sensitive also as the mole often backs up in its tunnel. These attributes help in the constant search for food.

Moles have huge appetites. They burn body fuel at a high rate to maintain their constant high body temperature. This enables the mole to function in both cold and warm weather. Because of the high metabolism, the mole will starve if it goes without food for even a few hours. The search for food is constant and occurs in rapid cycles of work and rest. Some moles are known for hoarding food. This may be attributed to the fact that the mole eats close to his own weight in food per day.

The mole's tunnels become quite complex. Two sets of tunnels are used. The shallow ones found just under the sod are used to find food. The deep tunnel system, usually two feet underground, is used for spending the winter, a place to remain during drought, and for a highway to and from the nest chamber. The nest is made of grass or other vegetation in a deep underground chamber located beneath the molehill. From the floor of the nest is a runway slanting downward leading away from the nest then to a surface exit for quick escape in case of danger.

Molehills, vents and tunnels often annoy gardeners. They do make an unsightly mess of the yard; however, some blame put on moles is unjustified. Damage done to roots, bulbs and vegetation is often done by mice making use of mole runs. These tunnels also help to aerate the soil so it is easily freshened by air and moisture. Moles also help the gardener by eating insects that could do harm to plants.

The love life of the mole is rather promiscuous and indiscriminate. Sexual maturity is reached at six to twelve months of age as the life span is brief. Mating occurs in the early spring. A litter of two to five, sometimes as many as eight, is born four to six weeks after mating. One female will have one or two litters a year. The female is left to raise the young and the male moves on to mate again and again.

Because they have a strong odor, the insectivore mammals are not highly relished as food. Birds and other mammals can therefore not be depended upon for control. There are several means by which to rid the garden of the mole. Celluloid windmills stuck in the ground create a vibration that deters the mole. This method, however, depends on the wind. Commercial traps usually work if the moles are in the lawn. Razor blades are placed in the mole tunnels though this can be messy and a slow death for the mole.

Poisoning and gassing are difficult and dangerous. Soaking earthworms in sodium fluoracetate or thallium sulfate is done; however, these are dangerous poisons and one should be aware of other animals that could be affected.

Small wire mesh can be put around the roots of a plant as it is being planted. This protects the plant though does nothing to rid the garden of the mole and his tunnels.

If some of you have discovered ways by which you control the mole, please send your methods into "Tidbits" so we may all benefit from your success.



The Last Frontier

THE STEWART—CASSIAR

Rex Murfitt, Victoria, British Columbia

This story has a great deal of effect on your editor, for which I am mainly responsible. First is the perennial problem of editors, that is, to get the final copy in her hands. The other is more of a family problem for her as I feel I have complicated her family's vacation plans for several years to come. On more than one occasion I have extolled to her the joys of this country, so much in fact that her desire to visit this area has become a cross that she will have to bear until she finally makes her long planned visit.

I am concerned that the subject matter of this story might stretch the normal content of a publication devoted to Horticulture Northwest. Knowing many of the readers, their interests, pursuits and activities I have been able to allay my worry, hoping that your love of nature's wide horticultural schemes will overcome any tendency for a story that might perhaps be better in a travel magazine. Now that this has been said, let me get on with the job at hand.

I like the title "The Last Frontier", although I should change it to "The Rapidly Fading Last Frontier" because every day new amenities of our civilization are edging into the area. I know that the people around there view this in an entirely different light than seekers of the backwoods do. nevertheless it is convenient for us not to have to carry gasoline for a couple of hundred miles of travel. It is comforting to know that there are mechanics available at intervals along the route. Food and other necessities can now be purchased, albeit not every few miles but at least the next day if anyone is desperate. There are motels, some quite rustic but warm and dry with hot showers and cooked food for the camp weary. Fear not, there are still thousands of miles of wilderness very close at hand for the intrepid.

I recently saw an article on this corner of British Columbia entitled "The Stewart-Cassiar mostly for tomorrow today", an excellent title as it sums up the whole story of the region. It tells of the aspirations of the people, the potential of natural resources, the development of roads and the railway. I am sure the citizens will not entirely agree with my outlook on their domain, they must have progress and development to survive, but I hope they will allow me a little nostalgia for the passing of the frontier.

The area roughly termed 'Stewart-Cassiar' lies in the extreme northwest corner of the Province of British Columbia. The main travel route runs parallel to the Alaskan border where the panhandle extends down along the west coast and east of the Coast Mountains. Road connections and improvements over the last few years have made the whole region accessible from the remainder of the province, which has increased interest and a resulting tourist trade.

There have been roads for many years but they were only accessed from the Alaska Hiway or from the port of Stewart, B.C. Now one can drive through making a circular tour, returning over a different route. There are two ways to approach from the south. If you prefer to be master of your own time table and have plenty of time, you can drive from any of the border crossings on the coast - Vancouver or Sumas. Further east it could be Osoyoos or in the Kootenays. As long as you eventually arrive at Prince George, from there you will take Hiway 16, the Yellowhead Hiway to Vanderhoof, Burns Lake, Smithers, as far as Hazelton. Hiway 16 country is well worth lingering over, if time permits, but that's another story!

The alternative is a sea trip, the famous inside passage. I will not labor this route too much as it is well advertised and many readers probably know about it. From Kelsey Bay on Vancouver Island the B.C. Ferries' Queen of Prince Rupert sails up the inside passage to Prince Rupert. It is a relaxing and beautiful trip and saves an awful lot of driving. It is costly but I think the same money would be spent anyway driving the 900 and some miles by way of Prince George. If you plan on taking this overnight ferry trip with your car or camper, make arrangements with a travel agent in lots of time, it is very busy in the summer. There is only the one ferry and it makes the trip up and then stays a few hours to sail back down again. From Prince Rupert you drive 95 miles, part of which is right down on the banks of the mighty Skeena River, spectacular country. It is quite a thrill to see the road and river and railway all sharing the same narrow valley. I hope you get the thrill of meeting a train running parallel with you as you drive along. Finally, you will arrive in Terrace, where you may select either the lava bed road or drive east on Hiway 16 to Hazelton. It is your choice.

Once at Hazelton you are at the jumping-off point, having a couple of choices. One would be to visit the tastefully restored Indian village of K'san to see the buildings and Totem pole displays. You might be lucky and catch one of the many cultural activities that are regularly staged. I was fortunate enough to enjoy the rare ceremony of raising a Totem pole. There is a fine campsite there, fully equipped with all the amenities. Should Indian culture appeal, a side trip to the village of Kispiox would be worthwhile to see some very fine Totem poles.

From Hazelton take Hiway 37 to Kitwanga, more good poles to see in the nearby village of Kitwancool. In these two villages the poles are in or close to graveyards or old burial sites. So it's as well to bear in mind the natives up there accept tourists and do not appear to object to us poking around their villages but they do resent over-confidence. It always pays to ask if you may, sometimes they say no.

From Kitwanga the road heads north for about 50 miles through logging country, passing Kitwanga Lake, good fishing, to the Cranberry River. Here a junction joins up with an alternate route from Hiway 16. Cranberry Junction now has a gas station and a coffee shop. The last 20 odd miles to the Junction was over the most miserable, bumpy road I have ever had the misery to drive over. It is relatively level but twists and turns. Let us bear Cranberry Junction in mind for a moment and go back to Hiway 16 at Hazelton. You may choose to drive west from Hazelton to the town of Terrace,

about 91 miles. Just west of the town a road runs north up through logging country, one of the most beautiful 60 miles you will find anywhere. There are lots of lakes to camp by and mountains to see, but above all is the Aiyansh lava flow. Beyond the lava beds the road meets the powerful Nass River. I recommend a side trip west down the logging road following this mighty river. It was along this road I saw fireweed over ten feet tall. After you turn round and retrace your route the road intersects with the lava bed and continues "up north" through the settlement of Nass Centre and the village of New Aiyansh, finally arriving at Cranberry Junction. It is well worth allowing some of your valuable time to explore the lava flow. It is an unforgettable experience to drive through miles of moonscape. The original flow came from a side valley about 220 years ago. One of the youngest flows we have. It flowed into the Tseax valley where the highway is today, forming a dam for Lava Lake, a picturesque lake of bright green reflecting snow capped mountains. The flow continued down the Tseax valley for 11 miles or so, forcing the river out of its original bed. It is possible to hike up the side valley to the cone but it is an arduous walk. Much of the route is through woods and along sidehills, plus some walking on the lava, which is very hard on good boots. Logging roads penetrate the valley at the cone on the side hill. Botanizing on the lava is a lot of fun, there are some interesting plants, particularly for the Bonsai fancier, it is not hard to imagine the type of find you can expect from such a growing medium. There are saxifrages and lovely lichens of many colors by the acre, thick and luxuriant. The creeks, rivers and pools are all the same delightful greeny-blue, each 'landscaped' artistically with blocks of reddish-brown lava. What rock gardens could be made with such materials!

The single lane bridge over the Nass River is significant as it was built by the Forest Service for development and is the gateway to the north. Meziadin Lake is the logical place for an overnight stop, even the most blasé backwoodsman will find this large, northern lake spellbinding. It is bordered by tall alpine conifers, long, slender and pendulous branches. As one wanders through the forest and through the open glades gradually it dawns on one the ground covers are not quite the same. Investigation shows them to be mats of *Vaccinium vitis-idaea minus*, not in itself a rare plant but for those, like me, to see it for the first time, in such perfect condition, makes for appreciation of the qualities of this beautiful plant. Shiny dark green leaves and the brightest red berries imaginable, incomparable with our garden grown specimens.

Beyond Meziadin there is a choice of a side trip to the coast and the town of Stewart. Its about 40 miles in and out and you have to return over the same route, not that it's any hardship. Even if the weather is wet I would recommend the trip, the road passes over the Bear Pass where a magnificent blue-blue glacier flows down to the road. Here are great sheets of *Dryas* and other alpine flowers can be seen. If the weather is at all clement, a short climb quickly gives access to wonderful alpine areas.

Stewart is an old town at the head of the Portland Canal where it is possible to stand on the international border with one foot in B.C. and the other in Alaska. Crossing over into the little village of Hyder, Alaska is the usual thing to do. It is famous for its saloons (you be the judge!).

It is a drive of over a hundred miles through the valleys of the Bell Irving River, the Iskut River to Kinaskin and Eddontenajon Lakes. I defy

anyone to do it in a hurry, it is full of grand rivers, creeks, lakes, meadows and camping spots are easy to find, the fishing is great! One thing I found amusing, driving along the gravel road through the forest, suddenly the road widens out, before you realize why a sign warns that the road has become an airstrip! And they mean it for there was a Dakota revving up for take-off.

For about 40 miles the road runs through an old forest fire. As far as you can see on either side of the valley has been burned. The ribbon of road winds over the hills through the uncanny openness, it is not without its own wild beauty.

At the settlement of Dease Lake, by the lake, are the usual services and supplies but be sure to drive off the main hiway and find the old original buildings. They are lovely cabins and stores made of the squared logs, contrasting quite well with the float planes tied up at the shore. From Dease Lake lies one of the most magnificent scenic wonders few are privileged to experience. The Grand Canyon of the Stikine River. If this canyon were anywhere else it would be among the tourist meccas of the continent. I have no wish to frighten anyone away but I must make this warning. While the road through the canyon is driveable it is extremely frightening and I urge extreme caution. Be on your constant guard for vehicles coming the other way, some of the drivers seem to have a death wish, which is easily granted here.

From Dease Lake Settlement to the lip of the Tuya River Canyon the road is tolerable except in wet weather. The road is made of clay and is extremely slippery, one bit of bad luck and you are off the road. You will not roll to your death into a canyon but friendly tow trucks are not available!! Furthermore there are long stretches of road where ruts made by trucks are too deep for many passenger vehicles. Please check with people in Dease before you leave. If it has been raining or is raining as you arrive, don't go. The locals using the road carry chains and a spare can of gas to cope with emergencies. Experienced wilderness travellers will have no surprises but unprepared or ill equipped travellers will run needless risk of inconvenience or expense that can ruin a holiday.

The drop down into the Tuya River gorge is a thrill, one minute you are on top of the world, the next snaking down into the bowels of the earth. Along this stretch drivers can expect to see grizzly bears. The narrow, but safe, bridge over the river gives glimpses of rock gorges, sand bars and cliffs of the narrow river valley, a wild, untamed place begging for exploration. Then the climb back to the surface begins and what a surprise the botanist will find. As you top the high point and look over the Stikine River valley it takes a while to recover from the experience, then awareness dawns that the flora at your feet is not what you have come to expect, aspens, junipers hugging the ground, great sheets of *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*. I even saw the purple heads of anemone. What an ideal combination if we could blend the two together as tastefully as it grows on these hillsides. It would be the answer to many dry bank problems in our gardens.

Then the road negotiates the great canyon, twisting, turning, up, down and always on the very lip of the sheer canyon walls. I cannot even attempt to describe all the magnificence you will see. Finally the road leaves the river and drops down into the valley of Tahlton. This is open, rolling country, rolling mountains and again the feeling of vast space and openness.

There is an atmosphere about this country of a western movie scene, bleached, weathered cabins, corals, barns. This is a large Indian Reserve and several interesting old settlements can be seen; one lovely old bleached wooden church sits high on a hill. It is made pretty obvious that tourists are expected to stay on the main hiway. Finally the road drops down into the old town of Telegraph Creek. This used to be the extent of the navigable part of the river and a key point in the old telegraph system. You can still see the mooring facilities for the steamboats that came up the river. This is a pleasant settlement to wander around and see the antique buildings. Again, be prepared, this is not a tourist town and the residents are not fully equipped to cater to tourists. This country is part of the vast Stikine Plateau which gives way to the Coast Mountains on the west and Cassiar and Omineca ranges to the east, so now is a good time to take a little jaunt up into these mountains; after all we have been looking at them for several days. Once you leave the main hiway and the valley the terrain very soon becomes alpine. There are plenty of side roads to explore, mostly mining roads in different states of decay. These roads run up through forest, which soon peters out at this latitude and quickly yields to the alpine trees so typical of the coastal timberline. Interesting wet meadows, pools and streams change to open mountain slopes and green alpine meadows. I found pleasure in the shortness of the transition from one life zone to the next. A good three mile walk will take you from the forest to the top of an 8000 foot peak. One of the first flowers was *Campanula lasiocarpa*, quite large clumps in full flower. It seems to favor wet slopes, commonly of mineral soil. I have never had much success with it in the garden and have never seen the flowers



Campanula lasiocarpa

so large and colorful as those in the Cassiar Mountains. The flowers are a good warm lavender-blue borne singly and tend to face up at you. The alpine meadows sweep up the valleys and terminate in great sweeping scree which lead to the summits of broken rock with patches of snow. The mountain tops are bare rock covered with multicolored lichens, no flowers at all, at least that I could see in July. Once again the vast openness impresses. There

are no miles and miles of forested valleys we normally see from our mountain tops. The eye is carried over mountain after mountain, rugged bare-rocked tops but beautifully shaped. Unlike some wild mountain areas I found these peaks gave a friendly feeling, perhaps it is this openness and space of the country that denies the hemmed in, overpowering somber effect of some mountains.

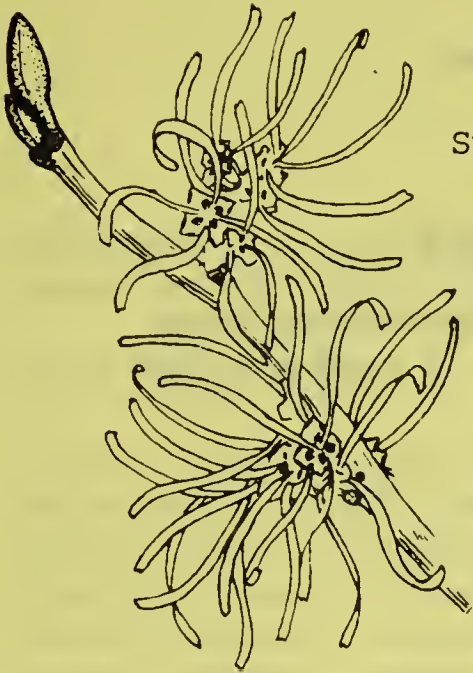
The plants, as you would expect in this environment, are extremely alpine in appearance. Even some of our well known coastal species are half the stature, sometimes so small and tight that it takes a moment or two to recognize them. The cassiope, for example, are so low and compact it is easy to miss the fact they are carpets of *Cassiope stelleriana* and *C. lycopodioides*. In the rivulets among great boulders grow wonderful clumps of arctic willows. Tiny little shiny leaves compressed as tightly as a cushion of *Silene acaulis*, all topped with red-purple catkins on inch high stems. The screes seem to be populated entirely with prostrate sheets of *Salix reticulata*. Attempts to collect are a lesson in respect as the prostrate stems were five and six feet



N.O.H.S. NOTES

Spring 1979

Supplement to Horticulture Northwest



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Hamamelis mollis

Newsletter Items (N.O.H.S. Notes): Please write out all in-organizational material, news, announcements, events, etc, in the form in which you wish them to appear, and send them to the Newsletter editor. She will give you the required information on deadlines for any specific issue. We have many active and knowledgeable members in the NOHS participating in very interesting endeavors relative to their specialized field of ornamental horticulture. Let us hear what our members are doing; those things that would be of interest to us all.



\$100,000 EDUCATION FUND

The use of the income from this newly established Northwest Ornamental Horticultural Society fund will be restricted to furthering horticultural education, development and related activities. All contributions will be received with gratitude and are income tax deductible.



SPECIAL EVENT FOR MEMBERS

May 1 - Tacoma Garden Tour -

The garden of Mr. & Mrs. Corydon Wagner

and

The Native Plant Garden at Point Defiance

Reservations limited: Cost: \$5.00 including transportation from Washington Park Arboretum, Japanese Garden parking lot. A card will be mailed to all members with further information.

* * *

The Northwest Ornamental Horticultural Society is pleased to welcome new life member Mrs. Frederic J. Blanchett.

* * *

The first of the excellent N.O.H.S. 1979 lecture series, "Shaping Your Garden", was presented to a large and enthusiastic audience - you will note that the facilities for parking at the Museum of History and Industry are exceptional.

* * *

Membership Application

NORTHWEST ORNAMENTAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



Purpose:

Shall be to further horticultural development and maintenance of the University of Washington Arboreta and plant life situated therein.

Membership activities encompass:

Lecture Series, Study Groups, Annual Fall Plant Sale, Tours of gardens of horticultural interest, Quarterly Horticultural Journal.

(Please fill in form as you wish information to appear in yearbook)

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(Membership renewals will come due January, May and September,
whichever month is closest to date of Membership Application)

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TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP:

- | | |
|---|---------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life | \$500.00 |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Annual | \$ 7.50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Group Membership Minimum | \$ 10.00 |

NORTHWEST
ORNAMENTAL HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY

1979 SEED LIST

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Symbols and Abbreviations:

*	Collected in the wild
°	Garden-grown seed
A	Alaska
Aust.	Australia
BC	British Columbia, Canada
Cal	California
Cauc	Caucasus
GB	Great Britain
Ka	Kashmir
Wa	Washington

List of Seeds:

1	Adonis chrysocyathus *Ka
2	Agapanthus orientalis °Wa
3	Allium fibrillum *Wa
4	A. macrum *Wa
5	Alnus sinuata *Wa
6	Andromeda polifolia var. acerosa *A
7	Anemone occidentalis *Wa
8	Aralia californica *Cal
9	Arctericia nana 'Redshank' °GB
10	Arctostaphylos rubra *A
11	A. uva-ursi *Wa
12	Asarina procumbens °Wa
13	Asphodeline lutea °Wa
14	Aster engelmannii *Wa

- 15 A. paucicapitatus *Wa
- 16 Balsamorhiza incana *Wa
- 17 Betula nana *A
- 18 Billardiera longiflora °BC
- 19 Boronia denticulata *Aust
- 20 B. megastigma *Aust
- 21 Brodiaea laxa *Cal
- 22 Bupleurum fruticosum °Wa
- 23 Callicarpa bodinieri °Wa
- 24 Calochortus luteus *Cal
- 25 C. vestae *Cal
- 26 Calocedrus decurrens *Cal
- 27 Caltha biflora *Wa
- 28 C. intraloba *Aust
- 29 Camassia leichtlinii - purple *O
- 30 C. leichtlinii - white *O
- 31 C. leichtlinii - mixed *O
- 32 Campanula rotundifolia *Wa
- 33 Ceanothus velutinus var. laevigatus
- 34 Cercis occidentalis *Cal
- 35 Clintonia uniflora *Wa
- 36 Cornus canadensis *Wa
- 37 C. kousa °Wa
- 38 Dierama pulcherrimum °Wa
- 39 Delphinium glareosum *Wa
- 40 D. variegatum *Cal
- 41 Echinops ritro °Wa
- 42 Embothrium coccineum °Wa
- 43 Epilobium glaberrimum *Wa
- 44 Epipactis gigantea *Cal
- 45 Erica coccinea °Wa
- 46 Erigeron compositus *Wa
- 47 Eryngium planum °Wa
- 48 Erythronium montanum *Wa
- 49 Euonymus europaeus °Wa
- 50 Euphorbia characias subsp. wulfenii °Wa
- 51 Franklinia alatamaha °Wa
- 52 Fraxinum dipetala *Cal
- 53 Fritillaria pluriflora *Cal
- 54 F. pudica *Wa and O
- 55 Garrya elliptica x fremontii °Wa
- 56 G. fremontii *Cal
- 57 Gaultheria antipoda °Wa
- 58 G. Sp.-pink berries °Wa
- 59 Geum elatum *Ka
- 60 G. triflorum var. campanulatum *Wa
- 61 Grevillea hookeriana *Aust
- 62 Habenaria dilatata *Wa
- 63 Halesia monticola var. rosea °Wa
- 64 Hedysarum occidentale *Wa
- 65 Heuchera cylindrica var. alpina *Wa
- 66 H. glabra *Wa
- 67 Hibbertia sp.-yellow *Aust
- 68 Iris douglasiana x innominata *O
- 69 Kalmia latifolia 'Fuscata' °Wa

- 70 K. latifolia 'Polypetala' °Wa
- 71 Koelreuteria paniculata °Wa
- 72 Ledum decumbens *A
- 73 Leptospermum juniperinum var. prostratum *Aust
- 74 Leucothoe keiskei-compact form °Wa
- 75 Lewisia tweedyi *Wa
- 76 Lilium columbianum *Wa
- 77 L. pyrenaicum °GB
- 78 L. rubellum °BC
- 79 Liriodendron tulipifera °GB
- 80 Lupinus lepidus var. lobbii (L. lyallii) *Wa
- 81 Lychnis chalcedonica °Wa
- 82 L. chalcedonica var. alba °Wa
- 83 Microcachrys tetragona °Wa
- 84 Myrica californica °Wa
- 85 Menziesia multiflora °GB
- 86 Mimulus lewisii *Wa
- 87 Mitella breweri *Wa
- 88 Onopordon acanthium °Wa
- 89 Pachistima myrsinites *Wa
- 90 Pachystegia insignis °BC
- 91 Parthenocissus tricuspidata °Wa
- 92 Penstemon aggregatus *Wa
- 93 P. fruticosus *Wa
- 94 P. heterophyllus *Cal
- 95 P. ovatus *Wa
- 96 P. procerus var. tolmiei *Wa
- 97 Pentapera sicala °GB
- 98 Phlomis fruticosa °Wa
- 99 Pinus sabiniana *Cal
- 100 Pterostyrax hispida °Wa
- 101 Rhamnus californica *Cal
- 102 Rhododendron albiflorum *Wa
- 103 R. caucasicum *Cauc.
- 104 R. lapponicum *A
- 105 Rosa rubiginosa (eglanteria) °Wa
- 106 Salvia haematodes °Wa
- 107 S. sonomensis *Cal
- 108 Saxifraga bronchialis *A
- 109 S. oppositifolia *A
- 110 Silene acaulis *A
- 111 S. schafta °Wa
- 112 Sollya heterophylla *Aust
- 113 Solidago multiradiata var. scopulorum *Wa
- 114 Sorbus sitchensis *Wa
- 115 Spartium junceum °Wa
- 116 Spiraea densiflora *Cal
- 117 Stewartia monadelphica °Wa
- 118 Styra japonica °Wa
- 119 S. obassia °Wa
- 120 Symphoricarpos mollis var. hesperius *Wa
- 121 Synthyris pinnatifida var. lanuginosa *Wa
- 122 Thalictrum occidentale *Wa
- 123 Trochodendron aralioides °Wa
- 124 Vaccinium padifolium °Wa
- 125 Viola trinervata *Wa
- 126 Xerophyllum tenax *Wa
- 127 Zigadenus fremontii *Cal

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COMING GARDEN EVENTS

SPRING 1979

- March 8 N.O.H.S. Lecture: "Pruning: How To and How Not To" by Chico Narro. Museum of History and Industry, 2161 E. Hamlin St., Seattle, Exhibits, 10:30 A.M., lecture 11 A.M. Open to public, \$1.00 per person.
- March 19 N.W. Orchid Society Meeting. Shoreline Senior Center, 835 N.E. 155th, Seattle. 7 P.M. Visitors welcome.
- March 22 Explorers' Walk. Sponsored by the Arboretum Foundation. Meet at the Foundation office parking lot, 10 A.M.
- March 29 & 30 Arboretum Foundation 2nd Annual Spring Horticultural Exhibit, Museum of History and Industry, 2161 E. Hamlin St. 1 to 8 P.M. on Friday and 10 A.M. to 3 P.M. on Saturday. No charge.
- April 12 Arboretum Foundation "Work and Fun Day", beginning at 9 A.M.
- April 16 N.W. Orchid Society Meeting. Shoreline Senior Center, 835 N.E. 155th St., Seattle 7 P.M. Visitors welcome.
- April 18 Children's Orthopedic Hospital Medical Center Garden Sale. University Village parking lot. 9 A.M. to 6 P.M. on Wednesday and 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. on Thursday.
- April 19 N.O.H.S. Lecture. "Topiary: A Fascinating Garden Specialty" by Sally Reath of Philadelphia, PA. Museum of History and Industry, 2161 E. Hamlin St., Seattle. Exhibits 7:30 P.M., lecture 8 P.M. Open to public, \$1.00 per person.
- April 26 Explorers' Walk. Sponsored by the Arboretum Foundation. Meet at the Foundation office parking lot, 10 A.M.
- May 1 N.O.H.S. tour of Tacoma gardens for members and guests. Seattle meeting place, time and price to be announced.
- May 2 & 3 Arboretum Foundation Plant Sale at the Foundation office parking lot.
- May 10 Seattle Garden Club flower arrangement and horticultural show, "Springtime Northwest" at the Museum of History and Industry, 2161 E. Hamlin St. 11 A.M. to 4 P.M. Donation, \$1.00.
- May 18, 19 & 20 American Rhododendron Society, Olympic Peninsula Chapter, annual Rhododendron Show. V.F.W. Hall, Pioneer Bldg., 1000 Block, Water St., Port Townsend. 1 to 8 P.M. on Fri., 11 A.M. to 8 P.M. on Sat., noon to 5 P.M. Sun.
- May 21 N.W. Orchid Society Meeting. Shoreline Senior Center, 835 N.E. 155th St., Seattle. 7 P.M. Visitors welcome.
- May 24 Explorers' Walk. Sponsored by the Arboretum Foundation. Meet at the Foundation office parking lot, 10 A.M.
- May 26 Puget Sound Bonsai Association show. Scottish Rite Temple, 1155 Broadway East, Seattle. 10 A.M. to 6 P.M. on Saturday, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. on Sunday. Donation \$1.00, children under 12 free.
- June 14, 15, & 16 N.O.H.S. Fern Sale. Bellevue Square Pavillion. 10 A.M. to 6 P.M. on Thursday and Friday, 10 A.M. to 1 P.M. on Saturday.
- June 28 Explorers' Walk. Sponsored by the Arboretum Foundation. Meet at the Foundation office parking lot, 10 A.M.

long, even then it is almost impossible to trace them to a parent plant. Collection is only possible where land has washed out and clumps have re-rooted in debris. The last plants to encounter before life gives way to rock are *Betula nana* and *Loiseleuria procumbens*, both growing happily on the top of rocky outcrops, so compact and dwarf recognition is not automatic. I could not determine whether the neat, trim habit was caused by the wind-swept site or by browsing. I am inclined to believe the latter. Anyway it has taught me the value of *B. nana* as a rock garden shrub, particularly when hard pruned to encourage the mass of short growth it is capable of producing. While on the subject of birches, *B. glandulosa* abounds in this country. It is a shrub of some three or four feet high, although it can be taller, growing in tight thickets and favoring damp meadows. This shrub has a dozen or so stems radiating from the base, leaves are rounded, about the size of a dime, toothed and waxy green, heavily veined. I do not think for a moment it has any rock garden potential but I collected a few seedlings to use as a pan or trough plant.

By now it is probably time to replenish supplies and the asbestos town of Cassiar is nearby. From Cassiar the route swings through the Cassiar range and provides some of the most fascinating mountains I have ever seen. They rear up almost from the side of the road, steep but not too hard to clamber on. I must go back some day and see what is growing there. I was prevented by the most incredible downpour.

As we leave the mountains the scenery changes to the great Liard Plain. A few miles and the road crosses into the Yukon Territory and the Alaska Hiway. A short run down this hiway to Watson Lake and there the traveller will decide whether to head south via the hiway or go west to Whitehorse and Alaska. After the peace and quiet of the Stewart-Cassiar route the Alaska Hiway is quite a shock. Even this far north, away from our cities, we must quickly regain our traffic sense. I prefer to retrace the route back to Hiway 16 and take the ferry from Prince Rupert. Once through such country is not enough and the return trip lets you revisit places or explore further. I have been this route three times and still wish to return to the last frontier.



To add a little color in the house in early spring, use primroses. Purchase your primroses for the garden a pot at a time. Bring the plants indoors and conceal the plastic pot in a hollow burl, basket, or attractive container. It is much simpler if the pots are green or black! The primroses will remain in good condition from 5 days to 2 weeks. Later, plant them in the garden and bring a new pot indoors. The same burl or container can be used for other annuals and perennials purchased in pots later in the season. Often cheaper than cut flowers, this gives rewards another year and often longer flower life.

Dennis Thompson



Papaver alaskanum



Papaver walpolei



Papaver alboroseum

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Alaska Poppies

Maxcine Williams

The Romans called the poppy *Papaver* and that is its botanical name today. The opium poppy is probably the most famous, or infamous, of this colorful family.

Alaska has seven native species according to Dr. Eric Hulten. Dr. Stanley L. Welsh lists six. In addition, both list the garden plant, *Papaver nudicaule*, which has been seeded along some roadsides near homes on the Kenai Peninsula and abundantly on roadsides from the Palmer area to Anchorage. The corn poppy, *P. rhoeas*, has escaped in a few areas.

Most of Alaska's poppies are yellow or white with a large yellow base. *Papaver alboroseum*, found on the glacier moraine in front of Portage Glacier, south of Anchorage, has small pink or apricot flowers. Aline Strutz and I collected a white poppy on Attu Island that Dr. Welsh named *P. alboroseum*. It had the more or less lax habit of the Portage plant, but not the color. I still wonder about it. We also found an odd colored one at Cold Bay, which is near the end of the Alaska Peninsula, that Dr. Welsh called *P. alaskanum*. The plant was caespitose and the flowers were about the size of *P. alboroseum*. The color was neither apricot or yellow, but a blend, as best I can describe it.

The Nome area, Platinum on Goodnews Bay, and possibly the lower Yukon area have a distinctive poppy, *Papaver walpolei*. It is low growing and its small leaves have revolute margins. At Anvil Mountain its flowers are yellow, but out the Teller road and at Platinum, they are white with a yellow base. Dr. Welsh calls this our most distinctive indigenous poppy. *P. radicum* and *P. macounii* are the common yellow poppies, dotting the tundra and hill-sides like drops of liquid gold. Dr. Hulten called our poppies one of "the finest adornments of the Arctic tundra and mountains."

On St. Paul Island in the Pribilofs and up the Aleutians to the alpine meadows of the Alaska Range is the larger flowered *Papaver alaskanum*, endemic to Alaska and western Yukon Territory. Mrs. Strutz brought it home from St. Paul and it has remained larger flowered than *P. macounii* which she also has. Dr. Welsh said *P. macounii* can be found with white or red blossoms, but only rarely. I've never been fortunate in finding these colors.

Papaver macounii, *P. radicum* and *P. alaskanum* are our tallest native poppies attaining a height of 16-18 inches. In the high arctic they are often very dwarf. *P. walpolei* is up to eight inches although usually shorter. *P. alboroseum* has lax flower stems and usually is no higher than a few inches. In Aline's garden it self-sows so freely as to be a nuisance!

I still have a mental picture of a host of golden poppies (*Papaver alaskanum*) and *Pedicularis verticillata* on a hill on St. Paul Island dancing gaily in the freshening breeze.

Billardiera longiflora

CLIMBING BLUEBERRY

Brian Halliwell, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, England

The habit of climbing plants has been developed to take their lax stems up into the light. Although roots may grow in shade where it is moist and cool, sunlight is needed to open their flowers on growth which has been taken above its support canopy by the means of tendrils, climbing roots or a sprawling or twining habit. It is not very common for a climber to remain in the shade where it also produces its flowers. *Billardiera longiflora* comes from the forests of Victoria, New South Wales, and Tasmania, where it is found draped over undershrubs or climbing up trees. It has woody twining stems many feet in length which are sparsely clothed with small alternate narrowly elliptical or lance-shaped evergreen leaves. Greenish-yellow flowers which are tubular and pendent and about an inch in length are produced in early summer. Unusual as the flowers are in colour and form, the real beauty of this plant is, as its common name suggests, in its fruits. These are cuboid with rounded corners and are mostly blue in colour but there are those which are purple, red or white which seem to breed true from seed. These colour up at the end of summer and will remain in good condition throughout fall and winter, seemingly unattractive to birds.

Seed forms an easy method of propagation but this must be collected only when fully ripe and sown whilst still fresh for it does not seem to have a long life, which can be further shortened by warm and dry storage. Sow in a well drained lime-free compost and place in a cool glasshouse never allowing the seed container to dry out. Following germination keep out of sunlight and pot as soon as big enough into small containers using a compost of equal parts of peat, sand and lime-free soil. Keep in cool surroundings out of direct sunlight and plant out in spring when about a year old. Plants need a moist peaty soil and they thrive where there is plenty of summer humidity. For this reason they make satisfactory plants for growing up a north wall or over shrubs and up trees in a woodland. As the climbing blueberry is not a vigorous grower and its foliage is sparse there is no danger of its swamping supporting plants. Although it is an Australian plant it does not seem tender unless winters are exceptionally cold, the ground remains frozen to any depth and when exposed to cold winds.



Did You Know?

When David Douglas, the young Scot who plant hunted in our Pacific Northwest from 1823 to 1834 sent home seeds of our many magnificent conifers, he drastically altered the British landscape? The great firs, pines, hemlocks and spruces were planted with enthusiasm by the hereditary owners of large estate park lands during the latter half of the 19th century. They have continued to be cultivated and loved ever since.



Billardiera longiflora

Illustration: Mareen S. Kruckeberg

BOOK REVIEWS

Dahlias: A Monthly Guide, by Harold Miller. Puget Sound Dahlia Association, 1978, 32 pages, 1 color and 16 black and white photographs, 8 line drawings. Paper back, \$2.00 postpaid.

The popular almanac style of presentation presents month by month factors that should be considered by a non-gardener growing dahlias for the first time. This same information in an expanded form has been printed by the Portland Dahlia Society Membership Bulletin. The writing is easy to read and the photographs and the discussion in the section Dahlias For The Beginner offers up-to-date information on the newer Northwest dahlias. The 8 line drawings assist in providing culture information and the photographs provide visual differences of the various types of dahlias. The drawing illustrating dahlia clump division is a "text diagram" and rarely found in garden grown dahlia clumps.

Willis W. Collins

Wild Shrubs; Finding and Growing Your Own, by Joy Spurr. Pacific Search Press, Seattle, 1978. Price \$7.95.

This is a book about forty wild shrubs of the Pacific Northwest region from Alaska to northern California, especially aimed at amateur gardeners who wish to include native plant material in their gardens.

In the Introduction the author advises on how to plan the garden and how best to use native shrubs, the type of soil required, moisture, drainage and exposure. She stresses that rules must be strictly observed for collecting in the wild. One chapter deals with different ways of propagation, by seeds, cuttings, ground layering, stolons and suckers, with diagrams illustrating each method and how to take care of each rooted plant until eventually placed in the garden. This is followed by a section on Plant Names and Identification with helpful explanation of the use of Latin names rather than common names which differ throughout the world. To quote; "the language of plants is not so awesome as it may at first appear --- studying the glossary and diagrams of plant features will familiarize you with the botanical terms".

Detailed descriptions of these forty shrubs found native in the Pacific Northwest consist of two parts; first a botanical description of flowers, leaves and fruits, followed by information on habit, characteristics and uses. Each is well illustrated by clear drawings as well as forty color photos by the author, all of excellent quality.

A Landscape Guide covers blooming periods, colors of flowers and fruits, height and other useful information on each shrub. There is also a list of places where these plants can be seen in cultivation and from what source they can be obtained. A glossary of scientific terms is added.

This is a well-written book with much information on Pacific Northwest plants and can be recommended. A comparison of metric and English measure-

ments is another helpful idea, since the former are commonly used in botanical descriptions.

One criticism is that the book is of oblong shape, measuring 8½ by 11 inches, with a flexible cover which makes it awkward to handle. In future editions, it is hoped, a book of half the width would be more practical for taking on trips and also to sit upright on a shelf.

H.M.M.

LEUCOTHOE WALTERI AND DARMERA PELTATA

Roy Davidson, Bellevue, Washington

Those blasted research taxonomists are at it still, seeming to take greatest delight in putting down some of the most "pat" of plant names. We're not always sure they're not motivated by pure cussedness, but they seem both glib and sound when pinned down, if we can only listen.

What must have been a merry chase-your-tail within *Ericaceae* they have apparently resolved, and in a most unique solution. "Just forget the problem and it will go away" they seem to be saying. This was the complicated situation of species within the southeastern American leucothoes, and it all goes back...as do so many plants and problems...to Andromeda, who birthed so many of both, among them Willdenow's *Andromeda walteri* in 1809; this is given the new life of a generic transfer and is now acceptable as *Leucothoe walteri* (Willd.) Melvin, replacing by priority the deposed *L. fontanesiana*.

Everyone seemed agreed that two species were involved here, and the root of the evil apparently lay in the firm entrenchment of both as *Leucothoe catesbaei*. By legitimately depriving each of them of that designation, a solution resolved itself. The lowland swamp-dwelling member became *L. axillaris* some time ago, and the mountain-dwelling counterpart is now *L. walteri*. (See Castanea, December 1977)

The second suggested change of thinking is of quite another ilk. It seems as though from the archives of the remote tropical family *Triuridaceae* an old and disused *Peltophyllum* has been rolled out, dusted off and refueled to serve as the generic vehicle to an inconspicuous Brazilian species. All well and good, except that the familiar *Peltiphyllum* is by that act declared to be "only an orthographic variant" (and a loser by the priority rule to boot) therefore an illegitimate synonym. We have been advised that we should call the umbrella-leaf saxifrage by the name *Darmera peltata* (Torrey) Voss (1899). (see Madrono, April 1977)

But don't change your label on this one quite yet. This particular act of piracy has rankled the research taxonomists and they are proposing to the next Botanical Congress that *Peltiphyllum* be subject to the Act of Conservation, which would mean that the little Brazilian would have to find another shelter. Bravo! (see Pacific Horticulture, Fall 1978)

Tidbits

by Ladybug



Dear Ladybug:

In answer to your request for information on the Tasmanian vine, *Billardiera longiflora*, we are and have been growing this attractive plant in the University of Washington Arboretum in Washington Park since 1953. I must admit that it has not been one of our more permanent acquisitions since our records show it to have been killed by cold in 1955, 1969 and 1972.

Our experience shows that they need some extra protection and our best specimens are those planted against a west or south facing wall. We now have only the white fruited form, raised from seed from Malahide Castle, Eire. Two apparently healthy plants are scrambling on the *Colletia armata* located on the west side of the restroom building and two others are on a trellis on the south side of the greenhouse. In both instances, the soil is sharply drained and none too rich. All plants have flowered and fruited for the past several years.

Our attempts to establish this vine in other sites in the Arboretum grounds have been less successful. I won't predict what success they will have in surviving this winter--at this writing we have just emerged from a period with minimum temperatures of 10°F. and 5 days where the maximum was below 27°F.--but there appears to be no serious injury to them that I can now detect.



Joseph A. Witt

In answer to the Ladybug Tidbit on *Billardiera longiflora*: I have had this climber growing in my garden for 4 years. I grew it from S.R.G.S. seed from the 1973 exchange. The seed germinated freely and the seedlings were pricked out the following year (1974) into a flat. As sometimes happens with me, I could not decide where to place it in the garden, as I wanted it to climb in a low growing bush or tree with plenty of light and where its flowers could be admired at close range. These flowers are not everyone's cup of tea. Greeny-yellow in colour, with long, narrow tubes and a slightly flaring trumpet. I like them very much, Ed can't see them. Therefore the plant was not set out until 1975, the rest of them were left in the flat. I finally chose *Magnolia soulangiana* 'Lilliputian'. It is close to a path and faces south. *B. longiflora* twines its way along many branches, to the top of the *Magnolia*, a height of only five feet. It is in the fall that its greatest beauty becomes apparent. By then the seed capsules have inflated to half an inch, are fat and have a beautiful metallic blue colour. This colour becomes visible in September, deepening until October and then lasts to December, depending on winter weather. They hang on the vine all winter, gradually drying brittle, and seeds can be gathered easily. So far I have never had a self-sown seedling.

The plants in the flat got hopelessly tangled over the years, but

bloomed never-the-less until 1978, when I finally planted them out to (hopefully and eventually) hang over a wall. The untangling of roots set them back badly, but they were alive last fall. Whether they are now, after a six degree F. Winter, is a question I cannot answer yet. The plant entwining the *Magnolia* has all its leaves intact and green.

Francisca Darts
Surrey, British Columbia



Introduction to horticulture: Unless parents and professionals are extremely caring, astute andyes.....imaginative, the early lives of the mentally and physically handicapped are filled with a maximum of failure, minimum of success. Thus the most important criteria for the introduction of horticulture to the retarded is to begin with a sure fire success.

What better place to start is there than the vegetable garden, with the growing of zucchini as their special project? The fundamentals can be taught, preparing the ground, planting the seed. (I've never known a zucchini seed not to germinate!) They sprout quickly and the growth is rapid, both important in the case of short attention spans, typical of the mentally handicapped. The usual pitfalls, discouraging to gardeners, are almost non-existent; weeding is minimal except when the plants are very young, and bugs and slugs are no problem. From seed to maturity they grow at an astonishing rate, at times four or more inches a day. The leaves are enormous, the flowers large and bright, and the zucchini developed and grow so quickly, that a daily harvest is possible.

All of the elements for success are present, including perhaps the most meaningful one, that of an important personal contribution to the family unit. Other skills can then be introduced such as cooking, where it is necessary to have an unhurried (and unharried) atmosphere, loving patience and careful supervision.

Success breeds success. Little by little more sophisticated types of gardening can be attempted working into ornamentals to expand their gardening pleasure. If their first experience is based on a good strong foundation of success, they will later be able to handle the inevitable occasional failures without being discouraged. If, on the other hand, their first exposure to horticulture is a dismal failure, most mentally handicapped will not try again. So SUCCESS is the name of the game if there is any hope of an eventual horticultural training program with the ultimate goal of employment, to enable the handicapped to become productive citizens in the community.

Sallie Allen

Errata:

Vol. 5, No. 4, Winter 1978

Page 61, Para. 5 Latharus should read Lathyrus.

Page 65, Pp. 2, Synthris should read Synthyris.

Page 72, Pp. 4, the first two lines were omitted. It should read as follows:

For several weeks prior to our holiday there had been an unusual amount of rainfall, so that the often indistinct animal-human trail around the lake

Page 75, Pp. 1 Bellardiera should read, Billardiera.



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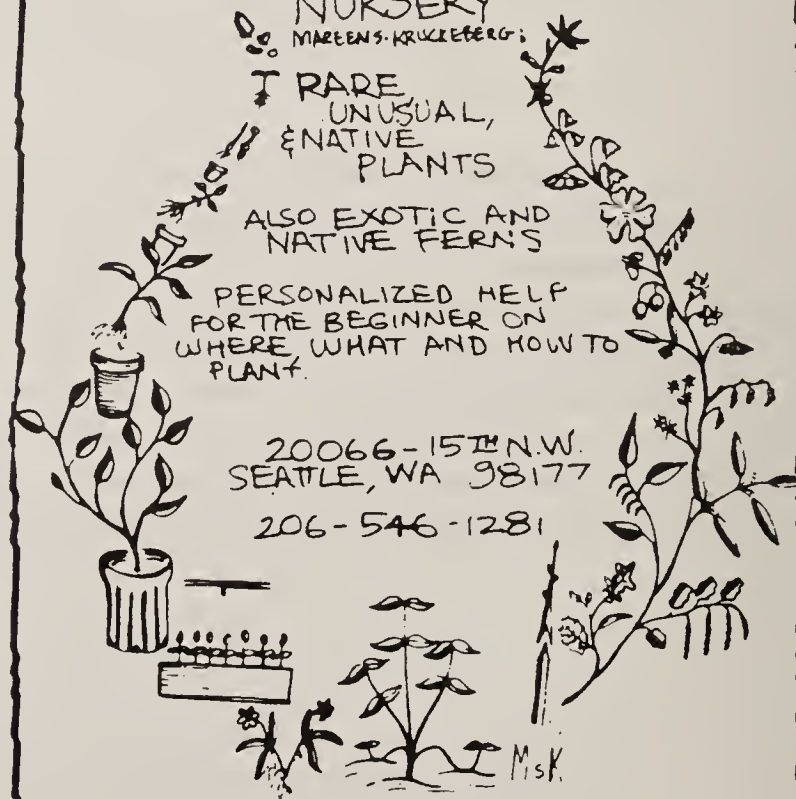
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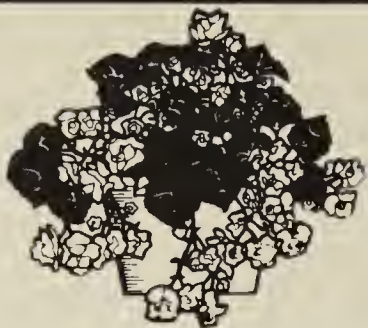
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